

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIG. 4. This sheet, which includes FIGS. 4-6, replaces the original sheet including FIGS. 4-6. In FIG. 4, text labels have been added to the boxes illustrated therein.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
 Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-21 remain in the application. Of these, claims 1-9 and 17-21 stand rejected, and claims 10-16 are withdrawn.

1. Confirmation of Election

In response to the Examiner's Restriction Requirement, applicants confirm their election of claims 1-9 and 17-21 (Group I) for examination.

2. Objections to the Specification

The Title is objected to as being non-descriptive. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that:

...N data propagation circuits, a multiplexing stage, 1x mode, Mx mode, and output merging circuitry aspects of the invention should be mentioned in the title so that the title is more descriptive.

2/2/2006 Office Action, p. 6, sec. 4.

In response to the Examiner's rejection, the title has been amended to incorporate more of the limitations of applicants' claim 1. This amendment is not believed to add new matter.

Applicants' paragraph [0001] stands objected to in that the Examiner would like applicants to update the status of the patent application referenced therein. In response, applicants have updated the status of the referenced patent application. This update does not introduce new matter.

3. Request for Information

The Examiner requests information on any reference(s) known to qualify as prior art under 35 USC 102 or 103 (including any products for sale). The Examiner indicates that, in responding to this request, it is not required that applicant perform a search. Rather,

The request may be fulfilled by asking the attorney(s) of record handling prosecution and the inventor(s)/assignee for references qualifying as prior art. A simple statement that the query has been made and no prior art found is sufficient to fulfill the request.

2/2/2006 Office Action, p. 4, sec. 3.

The undersigned, as the attorney who prepared and filed this case, has discussed the Examiner's request for information with the inventors, as well as the in-house attorney of the assignee who is responsible for overseeing this case. Neither the undersigned, nor any of the other parties mentioned in the preceding sentence, are aware of any additional reference(s) or acts (public uses or offers for sale) known to qualify as prior art.

4. Request for Indications of Support for Claims

The Examiner requests that support be shown for any new or amended language in Applicants' claims. In response, Applicants have attached a Claims Appendix which provides a listing of Applicants' claims, as well as parenthetical indications of where support for the claims is found in Applicants' specification and drawings. Note that, in addition to the support locations noted, some claim elements may be mentioned in other (and numerous) locations within the specification and drawings.

5. Objection to Drawings

The drawings stand objected to. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that:

The drawings are objected to because in Fig 4, add label for Refs, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, and 412 for --first propagation--, --second propagation--, --multiplexing stage--, --output merging--, --first data stream--, and --second data stream-- to facilitate the general understanding of the present invention for clarity.

2/2/2006 Office Action, p. 6, sec. 5.

Although applicants believe that figures are generally most appropriately labeled with reference numbers, and that FIG. 4 is so labeled, applicants have amended FIG. 4 to add all of the Examiner's labels, but for the label identifying a "multiplexing stage", which label is believed to be redundant given that the shape of object 406 clearly signifies a multiplexer. The amendments to FIG. 4 are not believed to add new matter.

6. Double-Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-9 and 17-21 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double-patenting, as being unpatentable over claims 1-6 of U.S. Patent 6,678,811. To overcome this rejection, applicants have filed herewith a Terminal Disclaimer.

7. Conclusion

In light of the above Remarks, applicants request the issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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